

Formal Writing Strategies

English
Mrs. Anderson

What should you DO?

- * Use Academic Language- no slang
- * Write out all numbers (#'s) under 20
- * Follow Requirements
- * Add a Works Cited page
- * Revise Multiple Times
- * Find interest in your topic

DON'T DO THIS:

- * Plagiarize
- * Use Slang/Misspelled Words
- * Add Unnecessary Information
- * Use Opinion
- * Use Contractions

Thesis Statements

- * Main Idea
- * What your entire paper should be about
- * Each paragraph should have a topic sentence that supports your
THESIS

HOOKS/Attention Grabbers

- * The first sentence of your paper
- * Should grab the reader's attention
- * CAN BE: A definition for your topic, an anecdote (short one-two sentence story), a question, a quote related to your topic

BROAD STATEMENT

- * SECOND SENTENCE OF YOUR FIRST PARAGRAPH
- * Broad Statement- a general statement about your topic
- * Does not include your opinion

Narrow Statement

- * The THIRD sentence of your paper
- * A more specific sentence about your topic, but still not stating the topic
- * Does not include your opinion

Thesis Statement

- * Last sentence of your first paragraph
- * Includes the main idea of your entire paper

Broad and Narrow Statements

* Examples:

- * A loss of innocence comes in many forms.(broad) While some losses are positive, many more have negative effects on an individual. (narrow) Guilt can be one of the most difficult forms of a loss of innocence. (thesis)



More Examples

* Example:

* Nature is a wild beast. (broad) Weather conditions can change in an instant. (narrow) Tornadoes are one of the most destructive forces mother nature has to offer. (thesis)

Which is which?

- * **Identify which is the broad, narrow, and thesis below:**
- * Babies do not know right from wrong, good from evil.
- * Children may not be directly taught specific morals or values, but their environment conditions them to believe certain things about humans and society.
- * Newborns are the most innocent humans.

Your Turn

- * Try to identify a couple of broad and narrow statements for your topic. Write your ideas in paragraph form in you notebook.

Body Paragraph Format- in order

- * 1. Topic Sentence- supports thesis and tells what the entire paragraph will be about
- * 2. Quote/Paraphrase (from research) to support your Topic Sentence
- * 3. Commentary-2 sentences- one sentence to explain the quote or paraphrase (wording: this example/quote explains, demonstrates, shows) AND one sentence with your own explanation/thoughts
- * 4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 then complete your paragraph with a concluding sentence

Sample Brainstorming and Topic Sentences

- * General Thesis- Violence is not a solution to problems.
- * brainstorm topics- social problem, aggressive, damage
- * Topic Sentences:
 - * Violence leads to other issues in society.
 - * The damages violence causes are physical, emotional, and psychological.
 - * Aggressive behavior leads to more turmoil.

Example Body Paragraph

- * The damages that violence causes are physical, psychological, and emotional. For example, “In Mexico, one in every seven families have been victim of violence or at least one member of the family has been a victim of a crime” (Pereyra 205). Any kind of violence is an abuse, and this abuse is detrimental to one’s well-being. People become fearful of others and their surroundings. “65% of violent crimes are not reported to the authorities” (“False Records”). **This shows** that those affected by the crimes often do not go after the criminals through the law. If all crimes were reported, a society could take back control over violence. Countries need to be united and stand strong against criminals. (Leads as a transition into the next paragraph)

- * Next paragraph’s topic sentence:

- * Violence only promotes more violence as a form of retaliation. “Countries who actively seek out criminals of all violent crimes have a smaller crime rate and safer communities” (False Records”). **This proves** that actively enforcing laws will cut down on the rate of violence in a country. Criminals have fewer places to hide if the majority of society supports set laws. “Unresolved violent crimes lead victims to seek violent retaliation” (Anderson 2). This shows...

Conclusion

- * Usually around 4 sentences in length
- * Paraphrases your thesis statement from paragraph 1
- * Suggestions for wording/ending:
 - * In the end, As a result
 - * End with a quote and connect the quote to the thesis
 - * Suggest a solution/change
 - * Draw a conclusion based on your research